

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAHA 00149 030857Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-02
USIA-20 /061 W

-----083844 031414Z /46

R 030730Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASH DC 2602

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS NAHA 149

E.O. 11652. N/A

TAGS. EAIR, JA

SUBJ. CIVAIR:JAL INAUGURATES HONG KONG ROUTE

REF. NAHA 088

1. ON APR 2 JAL INAUGURATED NEW FUKUOKA-NAHA-HONG KONG ROUTE. AS REPORTED REFTEL, SERVICE IS ONCE WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS, USING DC-8 TO ACCOMPLISH ROUND TRIP SAME DAY. JAL PLANS TO INCREASE FREQUENCY LATER ON DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC, ACCORDING TO LOCAL JAL MANAGER.
2. JAL IS FOURTH INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TO STOP IN NAHA. OTHERS

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ARE COLON 1) PANAM THRICE WEEKLY GUAM-NAHA-TAIPEI ON BOEING 747;
2) NORTHWEST TWICE WEEKLY TOKYO-NAHA-MANILA ON BOEING 747; AND
3) NAURU AIRLINES TWICE WEEKLY NAURU-GUAM-KAGOSHIMA-NAHA ON BOEING 727. (NAURU ROUTE USED BY OKINAWAN FISHERMEN ENGAGED IN SOUTH PACIFIC FISHING, BUT ROUTE IS BEING SUSTAINED MAINLY BY TOURIST TRAFFIC ON KAGOSHIMA-GUAM LEG.)

3. OKINAWAN BUSINESS INTERESTS ARE HOPEFUL THAT JAL RESUMPTION OF IERNATIONAL FLIGHTS THROUGH NAHA (AFTER FOUR YEAR HIATUS)

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WOULD BE MAJOR STEP TOWARD WINNING GOJ APPROVAL OF CATEGORY I INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STATUS FOR NAHA (ALONG WITH TOKYO AND OSAKA), AND GOJ FUNDS FOR BUILDING NEW AIRPORT OFF-SHORE FROM PRESENT ONE. NAHA NOW HAS CATEGORY II STATUS (ALONG WITH FUKUOKA). BEFORE REFERSION MAY 1972, SIX INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (TWA, NW, CONTINENTAL, JAL, CHIALINES, AND CATHAY PACIFIC) SERVED NAHA.

KNOWLES

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Disposition Reason:
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